

# READERS' NEW LINES collected by Jean Redhead

MARY STOTT, who edits this page, is sometimes asked by readers where they can buy textiles like nylon and "Terylene" by the yard. The answer is—from Stott Street, Nelson. I learned this from Mrs C. M. Pitches, of Balerno, Midlothian. She wrote to say that there was no "market" in her area and therefore she found the service provided by Bradley Textiles Company, 15 Stott Street, Nelson, Lancs, especially useful.

Bradley's is a firm which has built up its business largely on the personal recommendation of its customers. They deal literally in fabric bargains—remnants, seconds, odd lines, in every known textile. They will send you on request their current monthly circular, which is quite likely to contain anything from special offers in brushed nylon to striped winceyette intended for sergeant-major's pyjamas. They sell suiting, sheeting, shirting, and lucky dip parcels galore. Any sewer who is nifty at running up shifts will, I am sure, be fascinated by the range of what they have to offer.

I sent away for brushed nylon sheeting, 66in. wide and 8s a yard. I intended to make fitted sheets with it, but when it arrived (promptly, by return), I was so pleased with the quality that I decided it would be a waste to cut and fit it. So instead I made it into the normal-sized sheets for 3ft. beds and it seems most successful.

## DO-IT-YOURSELF SHEETS

I also sent for the special January offer of heavy brushed "Terylene," 48in. wide and 6s 6d a yard. This I made into sheets for 2ft. 6in. beds. The verdict of those who are now sleeping between these sheets is that both materials are very warm and cosy. The occupants have abandoned their hot water bottles and are no longer afraid to push their feet down the beds. And from my point of view the great advantage of these sheets at this time of year is that they can be washed and dried in a matter of hours.

The price per sheet, incidentally, excluding as usual the cost of mother's labour, was 24s for the nylon and 19s 6d for the "Terylene." Bradleys tell me that they have wider sheeting available from time to time and I am waiting for "Terylene" or nylon 106in wide.

## BLANKETS GUARANTEED FOR 20 YEARS

In a day and age when everything seems to be obsolescent before you've even got around to buying it, a 20-year guarantee is a remarkable demonstration of faith in a product. But, as Mrs Eileen Elder, of Huntington, York, wrote to tell me, that is the length of time that a firm in the Hebrides is prepared to guarantee its Cheviot wool blankets. The firm is D. MacGillivray and Co., Muir of Aird, Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, Scotland. They are Harris tweed manufacturers and distributors of the products of Hebridean crofter weavers. They sell Harris tweeds and Highland homespuns, Scotch tweeds, suitings and tartans, a full range of Harris and Shetland wools and knitted garments, and made-up kilts.

If you get an inner glow from draping round your shoulders the kind of hand-knitted Shetland shawl that the Queen wears, then this is the firm for you. They will send samples and a price list on request. They do not offer cut-price bargains, but their goods are of excellent quality and their prices competitive. I checked on their Cheviot blankets, which are certainly of high quality and wash beautifully.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR OVEN CLEANING

To judge from the number of letters provoked by my remarks about oven cleaners, the unclean oven hangs over housewives like a bad conscience. Mrs Clara L. Woollard, of Spalding, likes Chemico, a paste abrasive which has many other uses around the house. I find it quite good for oven cleaning, but you still need wire-wool and elbow grease to move burnt fruit juice. The most drastic oven cleaner of all is

probably Kleenoff, recommended by Mrs M. A. Cooke, of Denton, Manchester. I have used it several times when all else has seemed inadequate. It certainly works, but it is not very pleasant to use. It is a thick, strong-smelling jelly that you spread on with a brush and leave on overnight before washing it off. If you try it, you must protect your hands and above all follow the instructions implicitly. Better still, try to persuade your husband that this is a job within the realm of industrial chemistry and get him to do it.

The most original suggestion—at least, I had never heard of it before—for oven cleaning came from Mrs Barbara Lightfoot, of Pleasington, near Blackburn. Mrs Lightfoot simply puts a saucer of household ammonia in the bottom of the oven overnight and closes the oven door. In the morning, she says, all you have to do is wash out the oven with warm soapy water and perhaps use a brush in the corners. Her suggestion reached me when I had just scoured the oven clean with Kleenoff, so I asked a friend to try the saucer of ammonia. And she says it worked remarkably well. It didn't remove the worst of the burned-on stains, so she tried a new product, "Easy-go" (made by E. R. Howard of Ipswich), stocked in hardware shops, 2s 11d. She thought this the best thing she had tried yet, and liked the attached little wire-handled brush.

## VALEDICTION

It is 12 months since I began collecting and trying our readers' recommendations for New Lines, and I am now going to hand over to Elizabeth Smart, to whom I hope readers will continue to send information about little-known products they find especially useful and value for money. From the many suggestions and letters I have received it seems to me that, useful though some of the new gadgets or substitute products have been, what all housewives most need is reliable products at a fair prices. And there is nothing to beat a real bargain.